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Authority Releases FY 2003 Annual Report

Authority Executive Director Robin Davidov reviews the accomplishments of FY 2003 and reports on the progress of the Authority's major projects.

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RCRA National Meeting

The recent RCRA conference held in Washington addressed current topics in resource conservation and recycling. Page **2**

Garbageman Appreciation Day

BRESCO held its annual day of appreciation for area waste haulers and other waste management professionals who work every day to efficiently manage the Baltimore region's residential and commercial waste. Page **6**

THE AUTHORITY HAS MOVED

The Authority's new address is,
Tower II – Suite 402, 100 S. Charles
Street, Baltimore, MD, 21201-2705.
The Authority's telephone and fax
numbers and e-mail addresses will
remain the same.

Congratulations to Authority Members on Achieving Excellent Recycling Rates

According to a report released recently by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the State of Maryland had a 37 percent recycling rate for calendar year 2002. Authority member jurisdictions were standouts in the report with the highest recycling rates in the state. The findings in this statewide annual report reflect recycled municipal solid waste only and do not include materials such as land clearing debris, recycled fluids and construction and demolition debris, all of which fall outside the scope of the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) of 1988. MDE compiles the report




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New Health Risk Assessment for Montgomery RRF Shows Even Lower Risk Than Originally Determined


A recent health risk assessment report shows that the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) poses an even lower health risk to surrounding residents than originally determined when the facility first opened in 1995. The facility, considered a model for community and government cooperation, is located near the town of Dickerson in Montgomery County. It serves the waste disposal needs of most of the county's residents and businesses. Prior to opening in 1995, the county, at the request of local residents, conducted a multiple pathway risk assessment. Based on national performance and emissions standards the facility showed a very low risk to the health of surrounding residents. When the study was updated in 1999 researchers were able to use performance and emissions data from the actual facility. Results

from the updated assessment, published in the Air & Waste Management Journal *EM* (August 2003), show that the facility poses an even lower risk to public health in the surrounding area than the original study's already low risk assessment. The study also highlights the excellent operation of the facility and the emissions controls that are in place. A full citation of the article can be found below.


For more information about the Montgomery County RRF, visit www.nmwda.org. For reprints of the original article, contact Dr. Rao of Montgomery County at (240) 777-6494 

Rao, R.K.; Chaudhuri, I.; Garcia, M.; Stormwind, B. and Ruffle, B. (2003). Multiple Pathway Health Risk Assessment of a Municipal Waste Resource Recovery Facility in Maryland. *EM*, August, pp. 21-26.

Cell Phone Recycling Just Got Easier

CollectiveGood, Staples and the Sierra Club now offer a nationwide Mobile Devices Recycling Program in all Staples stores that makes it easy for customers to recycle their used cell phones, PDA's and pagers. Recycling saves landfill space and re-use provides mobile phones to people in developing countries around the world. For more information visit www.collectivegood.com. 

Orlando Appointed CEO of Covanta

Covanta Energy, operator of the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility, has appointed Tony Orlando, former executive vice president of business and financial management to Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Orlando joined Covanta 16 years ago as a project manager and was in charge of constructing two major facilities. He worked his way up through business management and eventually was responsible for the company's full portfolio of waste-to-energy facilities. As CEO, Mr. Orlando will be responsible for moving the company forward as it emerges from bankruptcy proceedings and a major restructuring process. 



Northwest Transfer Station Retaining Wall Repair

The Authority recently repaired a retaining wall at Baltimore City's Northwest Transfer Station residential drop-off location. Pictured are Laura Thomson of the Authority and John Currans of JRC Contractors. The photographer was Rudy Bartoldus of SCS Field Services. SCS provided construction management. JRC was the primary construction contractor.

RCRA Conference: Current Topics in Resource Conservation at 2003 National Meeting

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Conference, which was held in Washington D.C. in August, addressed some of the most current conservation and recycling issues, including product stewardship, electronic waste, waste gasification, and lamp recycling.

Authority Project Manager Laura Thomson attended the conference and reported on the following points of interest raised during the technical sessions:


- Electronic Waste — The applicability of RCRA, specifically toxicity characteristic leaching procedure (TCLP) testing, to electronic waste. Studies on this topic are currently being performed at the University of Florida
- The reuse of cell phones — an estimated 75 percent of cell phones that are "re-used" may be re-used in developing countries,

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CONGRATULATIONS TO AUTHORITY MEMBERS ON ACHIEVING EXCELLENT RECYCLING RATES *(continued from page 1)*

from data provided by individual counties, the Baltimore region and the Mid-Shore region.

The report also contains the state's waste diversion rate, which for 2002 was 39.5 percent. Waste diversion rates are calculated by adding a source reduction credit to the MRA recycling rate.

At the head of the list was Harford County, leading the state in 2002 with a recycling rate of 51 percent and a waste diversion rate of 56 percent. Carroll County had the second highest recycling rate of 46 percent and a waste diversion rate of 48 percent. 

Recycling and Waste Diversion Rates

JURISDICTION	MRA RECYCLING RATE	WASTE DIVERSION RATE
State Of Maryland	37%	39.5%
Anne Arundel	42%	44%
Baltimore Region	40%	42%
Carroll	46%	48%
Harford	51%	56%
Howard	40%	43%
Montgomery	30% (35%)*	35% (40%)*

*When a waste-to-energy credit is included for Montgomery County, as it is in other jurisdictions, the county's recycling and waste diversion rates increase to 35 percent and 40 percent respectively.

1983

Authority Releases Fiscal Year 2003 Annual Report

In the Annual Report, Authority Executive Director Robin Davidov presented a review of the past year's activities and accomplishments.

2003

TWENTY YEARS AGO

the Authority, along with Baltimore City and County Officials, laid the cornerstone for BRESKO (Baltimore Refuse Energy Systems Company), a new state-of-the-art waste-to-energy facility in Southwest Baltimore. The facility was designed to serve the residential waste disposal needs of Baltimore City and Baltimore County as well as the commercial waste disposal needs of the region. It was one of the Baltimore region's earliest endeavors to create a public/private partnership in waste management. By all measures the partnership was a success and the facility became a model for future waste-to-energy projects. BRESKO came on line in 1985. Since then, the facility has successfully converted more than 12 million tons of refuse from the Baltimore area into 4 billion kilowatt hours of clean, renewable electricity for BGE and 14 billion pounds of steam for Baltimore's downtown steam loop. In addition, the facility has recycled more than 300 million pounds of ferrous metal.

Since 1980, when the Authority was formed, waste-to-energy (WTE) has been the leading technology available for clean and efficient waste management. Those of us who believed in the benefits of WTE more than two decades ago, also knew that WTE held great promise for the future. New and recently retrofitted WTE facilities throughout the country are now outperforming every other method of waste disposal in terms of volume and environmental compliance, and are giving back clean, affordable energy.

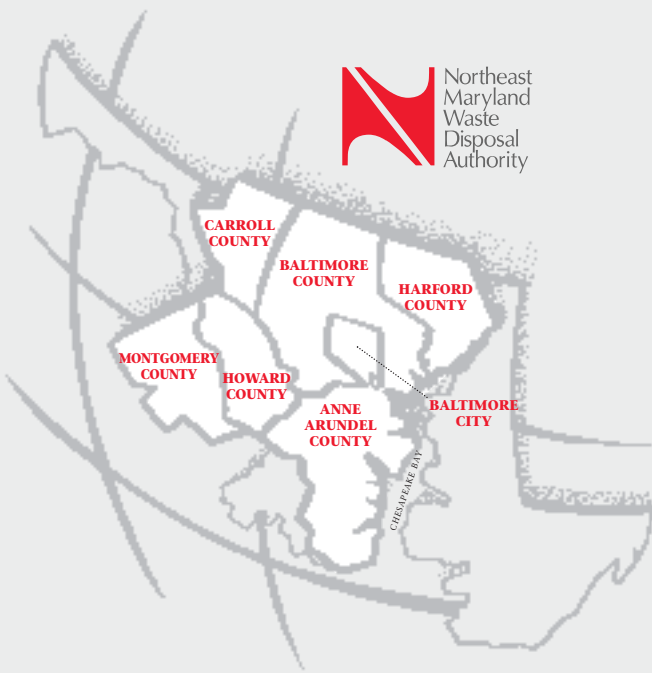
A report released by the EPA this year demonstrates that through the employment of modern pollution controls, electricity generating WTE plants are one of the cleanest power sources in the country. That is excellent news for the more than 3.2 million people in the Authority's member jurisdictions who are now served by three of the most successful WTE facilities in the nation, all developed by the Authority — BRESKO, the Harford WTE Facility and the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility.

Throughout the year, we continued to assist the member jurisdictions with all aspects of waste management, including landfill monitoring, landfill gas control system maintenance and transfer station improvements. At the same time, the Authority was pleased to welcome three new board members, including a new chairman. After six years as a board member, James Irvin was appointed chairman in 2002. Ronald Bowen, Public Works Director for Anne Arundel County and Arthur Balmer, Chief of the Division of Solid Waste Services for Montgomery County, were appointed as members of the board representing their respective jurisdictions. (As this report goes to print, we also have two new FY 2004 board appointments — Franklin Schaeffer, Carroll County's Deputy Director of Enterprise Fund Management and John Sparkman, Director of Maryland Environmental Service.)

BRESKO has successfully converted more than 12 million tons of refuse from the Baltimore area into 4 billion kilowatt hours of clean, renewable electricity for BGE.

During our 23 years as a regional waste management planning, financing and development agency the benefits of forward thinking have served our member jurisdictions well. In FY 2003, the Authority took advantage of the first call date on its Montgomery County Facility bonds and refinanced the project at a lower interest rate. The county's excellent management of its waste management enterprise fund, and the reliable performance of the plant during the first six years of operation, provided a record of accomplishment that was necessary to achieve the coveted AA rating from Moody's. The sale of \$195 million of bonds resulted in \$15 million in savings to Montgomery County. Subsequently, when bond insurance was obtained for the Authority and Montgomery County bonds, they received a final rating of AAA.

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The Baltimore Compost Facility has been highly successful in turning sewage sludge into a marketable product.

Another important opportunity was seized when the Authority took ownership of the Harford Waste-to-Energy Facility in July 2002. Our close working relationship with Brambles International, owner of the facility since the early 1990's, allowed us to act quickly when the company decided to sell the facility as part of a plan to consolidate all U.S. holdings. The Authority, on behalf of Harford County, pursued ownership of the facility in order to gain control of disposal capacity. By processing most of its solid waste through the facility, the county will reduce the volume of material going to its landfill by 90 percent. (Brambles remained as operator of the facility until July of 2003 when a new operating company formed by the facility's long-time operations manager took over operations. The Authority is pleased to be working with Energy Recovery Operations, Inc. (EROI) as the new operator of this important WTE facility.)

One of our earliest projects — the Baltimore Compost Facility — has been highly successful in turning sewage sludge into a marketable product. In FY 2003 the compost facility continued to sell out of Orgro, a compost product produced at the facility. Many famous lawns have benefited from Orgro, including the Vice President's residence in Washington, D.C., the home football field of the Washington Redskins and the Congressional Country Club. An important study completed by Johns Hopkins University this year showed that when Orgro is applied to lead contaminated soil, it binds the lead into a form, which substantially reduces toxicity. This is a promising low-cost solution to the problem of lead poisoning in children.

The Authority's business-to-business website, www.mdrecycles.org, has gained momentum as a one-stop source for commercial recycling. It links businesses throughout the region with more than 280 vendors of recycling services. Additionally, our outreach program has resulted in a wide variety of businesses and organizations receiving Certificates of Excellence in Recycling from the Authority.

The continuity of talent and dedication contributed by the Authority's Board of Member Representatives has been a sterling feature of our organization since we were founded more than 20 years ago. I am privileged to work with our outstanding Board of Directors. The following listing presents a more detailed summary of the Authority's FY 2003 accomplishments. If you have any questions about the Annual Report, please feel free to contact me at the Authority.

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**Southwest Resource Recovery Facility
(BRESCO)**

BRESCO completed its 19th year of operations. In fiscal year 2003 the Authority negotiated a revised tip fee schedule for Baltimore County.

Baltimore Compost Facility

The Baltimore Compost Facility completed its 15th year of operations. This year the Authority expanded compost distribution channels while monitoring facility repairs and upgrades to machinery, software and structures. The Authority also prepared an engineering report to help identify more storage space for the finished compost product during winter and low-demand periods. Additionally the Authority participated in an important research project by providing sludge samples from the facility to the USDA for a soil remediation study on how to decrease the bioavailability of lead in urban soils.

Harford Waste-To-Energy Facility

In fiscal year 2003 the Authority completed one full year as owner of the facility. A plan to remove and recycle metals in ash began this year and has already begun to conserve the county's landfill space. Also, the Authority negotiated and approved changes to the operations contract that was assigned to EROI, the facility's new operating company.

**Anne Arundel and Howard County
Waste Export**

The Authority continued to manage the joint waste export program. Now in its seventh year, the program has significantly prolonged the life of landfills in both counties through waste diversion.

**Montgomery County Resource Recovery
Facility**

This year, the Authority sold Renewable Energy Credits for the facility, which resulted in an additional \$100,000 in revenue to the county. At the same time, the Authority purchased additional rail haul equipment and worked on a plan to maximize the rail system for shipping yard waste from the Transfer Station to the Dickerson Compost Facility. The Authority also monitored the status of Covanta's bankruptcy case and participated on an Ad-Hoc committee of public sector Covanta clients.

Commercial and Regional Recycling

The Authority assisted recycling coordinators with collecting data for reports required by the Maryland Recycling Act, performed waste analyses for commercial and institutional facilities and developed recommendations for recycling in all subdivisions. This year, 12 local businesses were awarded Certificates of Excellence in Recycling from the Authority. Improving the design of the Authority's business-to-business recycling website, www.mdrecycles.org, and increasing awareness of the site through a media promotional campaign lead to an increased number of visits to the site. The Authority also provided grants for eCycling events in member jurisdictions.

OTHER REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

In other activities, the Authority assisted with the design and construction of biosolids projects, continued to market landfill gas emissions credits and developed a planning document as a resource for debris disposal in emergency circumstances. The Authority also advised the subdivisions on the best use of waste related assets and supported activities of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) by editing and producing a quarterly newsletter. Also this year, the Authority worked to have the Department of General Services require vendors to provide a source of Green Power in future energy procurements, and organized stakeholders to review biosolids regulations.

Other Fiscal Year 2003 Projects**Baltimore City**

Nearly one million dollars of improvements were made this year to the Northwest Transfer Station. The Authority negotiated a unique trade of tires for ash between Baltimore City and Harford County. In addition, the Authority assisted the city with environmental monitoring at the Quarantine Road Landfill and initiated a methane detection project at the Bowley's Lane Landfill.

Carroll County

The Authority assisted with permitting and implementation of a permanent co-compost operation at the Northern Landfill and recommended transfer and waste disposal options.

Harford County

In addition to managing the Harford County WTE Facility, the Authority continued assistance with a ground water analysis, a biosolids management study and a landfill gas migration study.


Howard County

The Authority negotiated and awarded contracts for acceptance, transportation, processing and marketing for Class A Biosolids and assisted with an amendment to the county's Solid Waste Management Plan.

RCRA CONFERENCE *(continued from page 2)*

which in most cases do not have environmentally sound end-of-life disposal options (estimate comes from studies by INFORM Inc.)

- Re-use and recycling of carpeting — this issue needs to be addressed on an industry-wide basis. A regional effort is gaining momentum in Minnesota and other states
- Sustainable Electronics — presentations were made on current industry efforts towards sustainable electronics design such as reducing lead solder in computer processing units
- Hazardous Mercury in Lamps — the State of Vermont has passed legislation requiring that lamps sold in Vermont (as of 12/1/03) be labeled as hazardous if they contain mercury. It is anticipated that this will have a ripple effect and that most if not all manufacturers nationwide will label lamps in this manner.

If you are interested in further information, please contact Laura Thomson at the Authority. 

Garbageman Appreciation Day 2003



More than 800 waste management professionals attended BRESKO's annual Garbageman Appreciation Day on October 28. Among those attending the yearly barbecue were Gary Kennedy, Wheelabrator; Laura Thomson, Traci Baker and Cathy Coble from the Authority; George Winfield, Baltimore City; Chris Leyen, Wheelabrator; Joe Kolodziejki, Baltimore City; and Bill Roberts, Linda Sapienza, and Tom Descano from Wheelabrator.



WASTEWATCH

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